

# Wingshadow program scrambles for budgetary help

By **CHRISTIANA NELSON**

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Steven Fretwell came to Frontier School planning to drop out of school as soon as he turned 16.

But soon his new life at Frontier became more addicting to him than drugs or alcohol ever were.

Now 18, Fretwell will graduate in May and attend Wyoming Technical School to become a diesel mechanic.

"It changed my entire life; for once people told me I could do it, and I believed that I could do it," Fretwell said. "This is a place where people come

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Wingshadow holds community information breakfasts from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

because they want to do it, not because they have to."

Fretwell is one of thousands of local high-risk kids Wingshadow has helped since opening in 1993; but, now the program needs help.

On Tuesday, Wingshadow representatives met with Republican Congress-

woman Marilyn Musgrave, Mayor Doug Hutchinson and city manager Darin Atteberry, to discuss the program's deteriorating situation.

"With everything being cut, we're scrambling," said board member Joe DeAnda. "We can't keep running on empty."

Budget cuts and outsourced community funds for Hurricane Katrina have cut Wingshadow's \$2 million annual budget nearly in half.

Eagle Homes, a residential facility that provides shelter and mentoring for 30 young adults for three

months, closed its doors in September after new Medicaid legislation. Since closing, it's turned away three to 15 referrals each week.

Wingshadow provides a place for kids faced with homelessness, substance abuse problems and violence.

"There is an underbelly in Fort Collins that the overwhelming majority of people never get to see," said Steve Bolton, co-founder of Wingshadow.

In Poudre School District, an estimated 600 students are homeless and about 60 girls become pregnant each year.

Larimer County also saw a 52 percent jump in child abuse cases between 2001 and 2002.

While the need continues to grow, Wingshadow is coming up short in every category. Each month the program is short about \$2,500 for Frontier School and \$2,000 for its child-care center that allows many teen mothers to attend school.

"We're working from out of the red and we need financial help," Bolton said. "The need is growing, but we are cutting back — we're going in the wrong direction."

Last year, Wingshadow assisted about 1,300 kids; this year it will only be able to help about 700.

"Underneath all of the prosperity there are some deep, deep problems," Musgrave said. "It's important to be aware of the incredible need in Larimer County."

The organization asked for increased community support to continue the programs.

"We've decided cutting back to serve some kids is better than closing our doors," said Shirley Bolton, co-founder of Wingshadow.



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## Musgrave breaks ranks on port deal

By ROBERT MOORE

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Northern Colorado's congresswoman sharply criticized the Bush administration Tuesday for approving a deal that would allow an Arab government-owned company to manage six major U.S. seaports.

"The American people will not tolerate this. It's foolish to even think of this," Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., said in a meeting with the Fort Collins Coloradoan editorial board.

Musgrave, who has previously broken ranks with the Republican administration on immigration reform, described the port-management plan as "insane" and "outrageous."

State Rep. Angie Paccione, a Fort Collins Democrat who is challenging Musgrave for her congressional seat, also criticized the seaport deal.

"The last thing we should be doing is outsourcing our security," Paccione said. "The 9/11 commission recognized that ports are one of our most vulnerable places."

Bush on Tuesday reiterated his support for the deal in the face of growing bipartisan criticism, threatening to veto any congressional attempts to block it.

A company owned by the United Arab Emirates government recently purchased a British firm that has been managing port operations in New York,

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Bush vows veto



MUSGRAVE

New Jersey, Miami, New Orleans, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The Bush administration approved the purchase, but critics want that decision reviewed over security concerns, noting that two of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers came from the UAE.

Musgrave said the Bush administration and some Republican congressional leadership have been slow to grasp public sentiment on issues like border and port security. "They just don't seem to get it," she said.

Paccione said Musgrave and other Republicans want to create space between themselves and an unpopular president.

"It's open season on the president. People from his own party have begun to distance themselves from him," Paccione said. "It's no surprise Marilyn would as well."